
Media Release

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PORT DIRECTORS, LOCAL OFFICIALS, NEWS PERSONALITY RECEIVE REGIONAL CHAMPION AWARDS AT SCAG's 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LONG BEACH – The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) today recognized five local leaders as Regional Champions for their outstanding achievements at SCAG's 2006 Annual General Assembly. Each year, SCAG honors distinguished individuals who have made special contributions in regional planning and collaboration.

SCAG's Transportation and Communications Committee named Dr. Geraldine Knatz of the Port of Los Angeles and Richard Steinke of the Port of Long Beach as Regional Champions. As Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles, Dr. Knatz oversees the daily operations and internal management of one of the nation's largest port complexes. She has worked closely with Richard Steinke to unite the interests of the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles in fostering more efficient goods movement. Richard Steinke, the Port of Long Beach's executive director since 1997, has a long and distinguished record of cooperation and collaboration with other port officials. As President of the California Association of Port Authorities, Steinke has taken the lead in securing Southern California's future prosperity through joint regional efforts.

SCAG's Community, Economic and Human Development Committee bestowed their Regional Champion award upon City Manager Art Gallucci of Cerritos. Gallucci has been a driving force behind the development of affordable housing as well as the development of high-speed transportation options in Southern California.

Jim Stahl, Chief Engineer and General Manager of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles, received the Regional Champion award from SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee. For more than three decades, he has demonstrated a great passion for

environmental concerns and a strong commitment to the waste management needs of the region. Stahl was previously Chair of the Water Environment Research Foundation and President of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies.

SCAG's Communications and Membership Subcommittee selected Ray Gonzales as this year's Media Regional Champion. Gonzales serves as KTLA-TV's director of community affairs and is responsible for responding to the needs and concerns of the community KTLA serves. He also produces and hosts "Pacesetters," a weekly program showcasing community issues. For years, Gonzales has actively served with a number of local charities, including L.A.'s BEST After School Enrichment Program, the Los Angeles County Library Foundation, and the March of Dimes.

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 187 cities and more than seventeen million residents. Now celebrating its 41st anniversary of service to the region, SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable, sustainable Southern California now and in the future.

For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, go to the SCAG Web site at www.scag.ca.gov.